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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: CONVENING OF THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT

Note by the Secretary-General

1. On 10 December 1996, the General Assembly adopted resolution 51/45 C, entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament", paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of which read:

> "1. Decides, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its objectives and agenda, to convene its fourth special session devoted to disarmament in 1999;
>
> "2. Notes the view of the Secretary-General that preparations for the special session could begin in 1997;
>
> "3. Decides, subject to the outcome of deliberations concerning the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament at the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, to convene a meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament before the end of the fifty-first session of the Assembly in order to set an exact date and to decide on organizational matters relating to the convening of the special session, and requests the Preparatory Committee to submit its progress report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session".

2. The Disarmament Commission held its 1997 substantive session from 21 April to 13 May 1997. The Commission decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament", which was considered in Working Group II.

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* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

3. At its 12th meeting, on 9 May, the Working Group concluded that, after intensive consultations, it was generally agreed that a fourth special session devoted to disarmament would be convened, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its objectives and agenda. Although no consensus on objectives and agenda was reached, some progress was made. It was also generally agreed that the decision on convening a fourth special session should follow the procedure set for previous special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. At the same meeting, the Working Group decided to recommend that the item entitled "Fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament" should be included in the agenda of the Disarmament Commission at its 1998 session.[1]

4. In view of the fact that no consensus was reached at the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission with regard to the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, including its objectives and agenda, the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament will not hold any meeting during 1997 and, therefore, no progress report has been prepared for the General Assembly as requested in paragraph 3 of resolution 51/45 C.

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[1] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/52/42).